

Montana Snowmobile Program Funding Questions

(For Representative Dee Brown)

Please provide a short report on the results of the \$10,000 grant you awarded to FWP Enforcement in FY 2008.

The FWP Enforcement Division only used \$5,000 of the \$10,000 grant from FY 2008. During the period of activity, Wardens accomplished the following.

Snowmobile Warden Activity Statewide (1/2008 – 3/2008)

Resident Snowmobile Contacts	3,705
Non-Resident Snowmobile Contacts	1,862
Public Presentations	5
User Group Meetings	9
Notices to Appear	105
Courtesy Citations	15
Verbal Warnings	247
Number of Hours	244

Note: Contacts are comprised of both snowmobile "stops" in which the warden stops the sled and talks to the rider, and slow "drive bys" where the rider does not come to a complete stop but the warden has adequate time for a visual inspection.

Please take the snowmobile grant tables you provided me and turn them into a one-page table for ease in viewing.

Please see table on the following page. Note that in some years the amounts shown include additional funds beyond grooming expenditures (see blue fields). The funding in those instances includes the total of the grooming grants, and such things as purchase of snow groomer implements, groomer parts replacement, and groomer equipment repairs. For example, in FY 2008, the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce received an extra \$9,053 for equipment repairs. In FY 2006 and FY 2007, the Flathead Snowmobile Association received over \$35,000 for equipment repairs to their State-leased snow groomer, and repairs to the privately owned groomer purchased with club funds from Big Mountain (contact Robbie Holman for details).

Montana Snowmobile Program Grants

Snowmobile Club	FY 2009	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005
Anaconda Snowmobile Club	\$11,124.19	\$10,619.75	\$9,925.00	\$10,459.51	\$7,753.00
Beaverhead Snow Riders	\$14,946.20	\$14,268.45	\$13,335.00	\$12,700.00	\$6,020.10
Big Hole Snowmobile Club (Wisdom)	\$2,858.10	\$2,728.50	\$2,550.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,300.00
Big Sky Snowriders (Livingston)	\$6,472.76	\$6,179.25	\$5,775.00	\$11,600.00	\$5,200.00
Bitterroot Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club (Hamilton)	\$13,830.98	\$13,203.80	\$12,340.00	\$11,750.00	\$8,804.00
Cabinet Ridge Riders (Troy)	\$1,012.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Broadwater Snowmobile Club	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,894.00	\$265.00
Summit Snowgoers (Cut Bank)	\$20,387.81	\$19,463.30	\$18,190.00	\$17,760.00	\$9,149.50
Deer Lodge Snowmobile Club	\$3,698.72	\$3,531.00	\$3,300.00	\$3,150.00	\$2,536.00
Eureka Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club	\$7,414.26	\$7,078.05	\$6,615.00	\$6,300.00	\$5,517.00
Flathead Snowmobile Association (Kalispell)	\$21,654.34	\$20,672.40	\$33,961.00	\$50,678.77	\$17,500.00
Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association (Bozeman)	\$25,891.06	\$24,717.00	\$23,100.00	\$22,000.00	\$34,783.59
Helena Snowdrifters	\$20,370.99	\$19,447.25	\$18,175.00	\$15,000.00	\$14,300.00
Kings Hill Grooming Association (Great Falls, etc.)	\$22,713.52	\$21,683.55	\$20,265.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Garnet Preservation Association	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,746.71	\$7,700.00
Great Falls Snowmobile Club	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,800.00	\$16,000.00
Lincoln County Sno-Kats (Libby)	\$9,190.77	\$8,774.00	\$8,200.00	\$7,000.00	\$6,600.00
Little Belt Snowmobile Club (Hobson)	\$11,118.58	\$10,614.40	\$9,920.00	\$9,450.00	\$7,721.00
Meagher County Little Belters	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,200.00
Mining City Trail Riders (Butte)	\$3,530.60	\$3,370.50	\$3,150.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,925.80
Missoula Snowgoers - Garnet	\$9,414.93	\$30,109.80	\$28,140.00	\$18,800.00	\$17,900.00
Missoula Snowgoers - Lolo System	\$22,125.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Montana Nightriders (Haugan)	\$14,570.73	\$13,910.00	\$13,000.00	\$15,400.00	\$9,308.00
Ponderosa Snow Warriors (Lincoln)	\$18,000.45	\$17,184.20	\$16,060.00	\$17,216.00	\$14,600.00
Seeley Lake Drift Riders	\$18,000.45	\$17,184.20	\$16,060.00	\$18,434.42	\$22,599.99
Sweetgrass Recreation Association	\$0.00	\$2,974.60	\$2,780.00	\$2,650.00	\$10,500.50
Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club (Cooke City)	\$37,995.97	\$36,273.00	\$33,900.00	\$32,300.00	\$30,800.00
Vigilante Snowmobilers (Virginia City)	\$22,007.40	\$21,009.45	\$19,635.00	\$19,542.59	\$17,403.08
West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce	\$80,026.91	\$96,398.00	\$85,400.00	\$116,092.00	\$77,634.93
Wise River Jackpine Savages	\$7,061.20	\$6,741.00	\$6,300.00	\$8,400.00	\$5,600.00
Totals	\$425,418.91	\$428,135.45	\$410,076.00	\$470,024.00	\$362,621.49

In addition, the following grants were awarded for special projects during this period.

Other Program Grants	FY 2009	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2006	FY 2005
Winter Recreation & Wolverine Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Law Enforcement, FWP	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Please list all vendors who sell the Montana Non-Resident Snowmobile Permits.

Please consult the list on the following pages. Nonresidents who plan to ride their snowmobiles in Montana must purchase a Snowmobile Nonresident Temporary Use Permit for \$25 per machine. There are a number of different ways for people to acquire the permit.

Online. A person may apply for a Nonresident Snowmobile Permit online through Online Licensing System.

Paper Application. A rider may print the Snowmobile Nonresident Temporary Use Permit Application, fill it out, and mail it back to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (address is on the application).

Local Store Vendor. Anyone can apply for a Snowmobile Nonresident Temporary Use Permit at one of the many vendors in Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Wyoming. There are about 70 local vendors. The list of vendors follows.

Non-Resident Snowmobile Permit Vendors

Montana

Bearclaw Sales & Service
302 East Main St
Cooke City MT 59020

Beartooth Recreation
6900 S. Frontage Rd.
Billings, MT 59101

Beartrack Travel Center
20958 Hwy 2
PO Box 468
East Glacier, MT 59434

Beaverhead County Treasurer
102 N. Washington St.
Dillon, MT 59725 2631

Big Hole Petroleum
318 Hwy 43W
Wisdom MT 59761

Big Sky Conoco Travel
91 Lone Mtn. Trail
Big Sky MT 59716

Black Diamond Guest Ranch
121 E. Frontage Rd.
PO Box 300147
De Borgia, MT 59830

Bob Ward & Sons
1120 N 1 st
Hamilton MT 59840

Bob's Bar
326 Main St.
Neihart MT 59465

Booze 'N Bait
315 E Missoula Ave #1
Troy MT 59935

Central Montana Yamaha Arctic
Cat
77669 Hwy 87 West
PO Box 839
Lewistown, MT 59457

Cooke City Exxon
204 Main St.
Cooke City MT 59020

Cooke City Sinclair & Cabins
115 Main Street
Cooke City MT 59020

Corner Conoco Stop
136 Canyon St
West Yellowstone MT 59758

East Slope Anglers
47855 Gallatin Rd.
PO Box 160249
Big Sky, MT 59716

Fastoys Inc.
3480 Hwy 2 East
Kalispell MT 59901

Fishtail General Store
35 W Main
Fishtail MT 59028

J & L Snowmobiles Inc.
5410 Hwy 2 W
Columbia Falls MT
59902

Jerry's Enterprise
131 Dunraven St
West Yellowstone MT 59758

Jesco Boat Center
2610 Hwy 93 South
Kalispell MT 59901

Kurt's Polaris Inc.
3181 Hwy 83
Seeley Lake MT 59868

Lakeside Motel & Resort
2957 Hwy 200
Trout Creek MT 59874

Libby Sports Center
204 2 9 th St
Libby MT 59923

Lincoln's Silver \$
Exit 16 Interstate 90
Haugen MT 59842

Lolo Hot Springs
38500 Hwy 12 W
Lolo MT 59847

Mac's Place
1427 Hwy. 37
Libby, MT 59923

Madison County
100 Wallace Street
Virginia City MT 59755

Mangold's General Store &
Motel
I-90 Exit 10
Saltese MT 59867

Mineral County Treasurer
300 River St.
PO Box 100
Superior, MT 59872 0100

Northwest Sports Center
800 Hwy 93 N
Eureka MT 59917

can see, the proportion of funds used in repairs during these years varies from 0.4 to 6.5 percent of the annual grooming budget.

Snowmobile Program Equipment Repair Expenditures			
Fiscal Year	Grooming Budget	Equipment Repairs	Percentage Budget
FY 2008	\$428,135	\$15,629	3.6%
FY 2007	\$410,076	\$26,793	6.5%
FY 2006	\$470,024	\$1,900	0.4%

Please provide an inventory of FWP Enforcement snowmobiles by year and model.

Please see table on following page.

Under the new law, for each \$25 of nonresident permit revenues, FWP receives \$21 for use in the snowmobile program. That equates to 84 percent of the share of annual revenues. For example, in FY 2008, revenues totaled \$276,624, which translates to \$232,364.16 for the snowmobile program. While the increase from \$15 to \$25 returned more money to the snowmobile program, fewer people actually purchased nonresident permits in FY 2008 than FY 2007. Such variables as annual snowfall, Yellowstone National Park winter-use rules, and the National economy will likely continue to have effects on these numbers.

Nonresident Snowmobile Permits Sold				
Category	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Vendors	8,392	9,626	10,270	10,995
Automated Licensing System	908	1,070	1,067	70
Total	9,300	10,696	11,337	11,065

Nonresident Snowmobile Permit Income				
Category	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Grooming Program	\$116,250.00	\$134,235.00	\$141,712.50	\$232,365.00
Law Enforcement	\$13,950.00	\$16,044.00	\$17,005.50	\$27,662.50
Search & Rescue	\$4,650.00	\$5,348.00	\$5,668.50	\$5,532.50
Vendors	\$4,650.00	\$4,813.00	\$5,668.50	\$11,065.00
Totals	\$139,499.00	\$160,439.00	\$170,054.00	\$276,624.00

Please provide the percentage of the annual Snowmobile Program grooming budget that is held back for potential major repairs.

Snowmobile Program equipment repairs range from replacement of snow groomer track belts, bearings, electrical relays and broken windshields to groomer engine and transmission repair and replacement. The amount of funds set aside each year is based on historical needs and current information. Clubs report the condition of their snow groomers in the annual snowmobile grant applications. The State Trails Programs Coordinator assesses priority repairs through study of applications, communication with FWP regional park managers, and with the clubs themselves. Total expenditures in equipment repairs over the last several years are shown in the following table. As you

Please provide an example of the results of the Snow Ranger grants that have been awarded through the Recreational Trails Program.

Over the last ten years, FWP has awarded about two dozen Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants to the U.S. Forest Service for Snow Rangers in Montana. The Forests utilize Snow Rangers to monitor avalanche conditions, provide public outreach and education about the Forest Travel Plans, make public contact to educate trail users on trail-related issues (such as avalanche data), provide low level trail maintenance, monitor trail conditions, check trail signs, and provide a very limited level of law enforcement. RTP grants for "Ranger" programs can only fund salaries at the Forest Service GS-5 rate. The Forest Service uses both temporary and permanent staff to fill these positions. As an example of a typical RTP-funded Snow Rangers project, we offer the following information from the Flathead National Forest from 2007-2008 winter season.

The Flathead was awarded an RTP grant for the 2007-2008 winter season. The grant allowed the forest to hire two Snow Ranger positions from late December 2007 to the middle of April 2008. One Snow Ranger worked part time through May making contacts in the late season snowmobile areas. The Forest Service Regional Office funded additional Snow Ranger positions that increased the Forest Service presence, outreach, avalanche education, and trail contacts to the public during the winter months. The Regional funding also allowed increased Law Enforcement Officer presence in the field. Moreover, it allowed the Forest to fund additional monitoring flights, training for Snow Rangers, and the purchase of equipment, including snowmobiles, posting bulletin boards, and monitor trail counters.

The 2007-2008 monitoring effort was expanded substantially due to the Regionally funded Snow Ranger and Law Enforcement Officers. Between the RTP Rangers, Regional Rangers and Law Enforcement, the Flathead was able to monitor winter use for a total of 181 days with over 2,247 contacts throughout the Forest. As a result, trail counters were maintained and checked on a more frequent basis than in years past; for this reason, the user counts could be higher for this season. The Snow Rangers tracked the number of vehicles and trailers at the major access points and the number of winter recreationists (snowmobiler, skier/snowboarder, snowshoe, other). A patrol log was used to track the locations, parked vehicles, weather, and users encountered on a patrol day. Information on how many riders they talked to, staging area needs, provisions for maps at staging area, documentation of snow conditions, counter maintenance, and wildlife observations were noted in the patrol log. As an important note, the information collected by the Snow Rangers regarding use patterns, counts, and visitor contacts are used by the local snowmobile clubs for their grooming and RTP grants to help substantiate the funds being requested.

Snow Rangers participated in events sponsored by the Flathead Snowmobile Association, the Summit Snow Goers, and others—such as the "Polebridge Rootbeer Classic," the "TransMontana Ride," and the "Doug Betters Classic." In addition, Snow Rangers handed out and explained the newly published *Over-Snow Motor Vehicle Use* maps for the public as well as provided other informational needs. Snow Rangers attended several avalanche awareness sessions geared towards snowmobilers, and staffed the Nature Center at Whitefish Mountain Resort for four days.

FWP Enforcement Snowmobiles					
Snowmobile Make & Model	Region	Date Purchased	Snowmobile Make & Model	Region	Date Purchased
ArticCat-Panther-d50386	4	10/1/1981	Bombardier v000011 d576	3	12/21/2001
Yamaha-d50162	4	9/1/1982	Polaris 600 d00850	4	12/18/2002
ArticCat-Panther d50520	4	1/1/1986	Polaris 600 338351d00852	2	12/18/2002
Polaris 1737686 D50712	3	8/1/1989	Skidoo 600 v000008	1	3/3/2003
Yamaha 011061 d00978	1	12/30/2003	Polaris d00933 428329	2	11/24/2003
Skidoo 600 d00990	1	1/7/2004	Polaris 428330 d00932	2	11/24/2003
Polaris 2444497-d01230	1	1/1/1995	Polaris d00931	4	11/24/2003
Skidoo-101400858 d00091	3	5/1/1995	Polaris 428324 d00930	2	11/24/2003
Artic Cat-coug d00058	3	10/1/1995	Polaris 402239 d00929	3	11/24/2003
Artic Cat-Coug d00054	3	10/1/1995	Polaris d00928	5	11/24/2003
ArticCat-Couger d00172	6	10/1/1995	Polaris600 21381 D01096	1	11/19/2004
Artic Cat Coug d00051	3	10/1/1995	Polaris 600 d01097	2	11/19/2004
ArticCat Couger 9616384	8	10/1/1995	Polaris 600 d01122	5	11/19/2004
ArticCat 9616603 d00166	4	10/1/1995	Polaris 600 d01123	4	11/19/2004
ArticCat-Couger d00167	4	10/1/1995	Polaris 600 18548 d01204	2	10/11/2005
Skidoo d00059	5	7/1/1995	Polaris 600 d01209	5	10/11/2005
Skidoo-326200894	8	9/1/1995	Polaris 618218 d01224	2	12/29/2005
Skidoo Summit d51091	3	7/1/1995	Polaris 618287 d01222	1	12/29/2005
Skidoo d00114	5	6/1/1996	Polaris 628168 d01221	3	12/29/2005
Skidoo 500 5800677 d971	3	10/1/1996	Polaris 600 d01223 628101	4	1/31/2006
Skidoo 500 d159	3	10/1/1996	Polaris 720232 d01276	2	12/14/2006
Skidoo 500 d157	4	10/1/1996	Polaris 720234 d01277	2	1/16/2007
Skidoo 500 d163	4	10/1/1996	Polaris 707657 d01278	1	12/14/2006
Skidoo Summit d00272	2	12/1/1997	Polaris 600 d001460	3	2/15/2008
Skidoo 134600395 d323	5	3/8/1999	Polaris RMK d001462	3	2/22/2008
Skidoo 134600365 D326	3	3/8/1999	ArticCat	5	6/30/2008
Polaris 3321729 d01231	1	6/1/1998	Polaris	4	10/18/2008
Polaris B037055 d00580	3	6/30/2000	Polaris	1	10/18/2008
Polaris c138837 d517	2	6/30/2000			
Polaris c138824 d518	5	6/30/2000			
Polaris c138849 d519	3	6/30/2000			
Polaris c138848 d01133	3	6/30/2000			
Polaris c138841 d521	4	6/30/2000			
Polaris c138843 d00976	1	6/30/2000			
Polaris B081158 d00646	3	6/21/2001			
Skidoo BRP d00977	1	12/3/2001			

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